

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179615 TOSEC 080010
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 179615 TOSEC 080010

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 6825 ACTION SECSTATE 01 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6825

NODIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM SULLIVAN

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US

SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH RE AWACS

REF: (A) STATE 177843, (B) STATE 179484

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTELS, I SPENT NINETY MINUTES WITH THE SHAH
AT RAMSAR ON THE CASPIAN AFTERNOON AUGUST 1 TO EXPLAIN STATE OF
PLAY ON AWACS CASE AND TO URGE HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION

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TO WITHDRAW THE AWACS LETTER OF INTENT. ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED
PLENTIFUL MISGIVINGS, HE FINALLY AGREED NOT RPT NOT TO WITHDRAW
THE LETTER OF INTENT AND TO HAVE HIS PEOPLE WORK OUT NEW CON-
DITIONS FOR AN LOA WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS
BETWEEN THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE CONGRESS.

2. I FOUND THE SHAH IN A VERY SOMBER MOOD. HE SAID HE FELT

HE WAS AT "A TURNING POINT" AND HAD TO STUDY THE WHOLE QUESTION OF HIS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN HIS JUDGMENT, THE ISSUES AT STAKE WERE FAR GREATER THAN THE AWACS. THEY INVOLVED THE WHOLE QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE WAS AMAZED BY SOME OF THE THINGS HE HAD READ FROM TESTIMONY IN THE HEARINGS, FROM COMMENTS BY SENATORS AND IN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS. HE FELT IRAN WAS CONSIDERED AS A CHOLERA CASE WHICH HAD TO BE SHUNNED AND AVOIDED.

3. AFTER I HAD SOOTHED HIM RE THESE MATTERS AND LEFT WITH HIM A COPY OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HE THEN TURNED TO THE SIX POINTS IN THE HUMPHREY LETTER. HE HAD THEM CLEARLY IN MIND AND, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO NOTES, TICKED OFF THOSE WHICH HE CONSIDERED "UNACCEPTABLE", AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM.

4. AGAIN, I REVIEWED THE INTERPRETATIONS WHICH WE PLACED UPON THEM AND SAID WE WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK OUT WITH HIS PEOPLE THE SORT OF CHANGES WHICH MIGHT HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE LOA TO MEET THE CONDITIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT I WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASK ERICH VON MARBOD TO COME TO TEHRAN TO WORK THESE OUT WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN.

5. AFTER SOME MORE SPARRING, DURING WHICH THE SHAH TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ASKED THE BRITISH TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF NIMROD, HE FINALLY AGREED ON TWO POINTS:

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(A) HE WOULD HAVE TOUFANIAN REVISE THE MESSAGE ON THE LETTER OF INTENT. THE REVISION WOULD PROBABLY SAY THAT THE LETTER WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IF THE CONDITIONS OF SALE SHOULD PROVE TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO IRAN.

(B) HE WOULD AGREE TO HAVE VON MARBOD COME TO IRAN TO WORK OUT AN AGREED FORMULA FOR A NEW LOA WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE NEW CONDITIONS OF SALE. IF THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE, THE ACTION COULD CONTINUE.

6. IN AGREEING TO THIS COURSE, THE SHAH STRESSED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE SORT OF DEROGATION TO THE DIGNITY OF IRAN WHICH WAS INHERENT IN THE ORIGINAL HEARINGS. HE ASKED FOR SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE HANDLED "WITH DIGNITY". I READ HIM EXTRACTS FROM REF B AND STRESSED THE POSITIVE POSITION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. THE SHAH SETTLED THE MATTER AT THIS POINT AND WE WENT ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS.
SULLIVAN.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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